The Rural Report

REAL ESTATE NEWS AND VIEWS FROM DON MYERS AND THE RE/MAX CENTRE REALTY FARM AND RURAL LIFESTYLE DIVISION



About 40 years ago, in the middle of November, the Myers family left central Pennsylvania to spend five days at Disney World—just before the Thanksgiving crowds rolled in. The weather was beautiful, and we had a great time. When we left central PA, we had clear skies and a good weather forecast for an uneventful return.

But two days into our vacation, Florida weather reports began mentioning something called a Nor'easter. I knew what that was—and hoped it would vanish from the radar as quickly as it had appeared. Instead, it intensified.

When our trip ended, we boarded the AutoTrain from Florida back to Virginia. From there, we drove north and heard reports of deep snow in central and northern PA. We saw only faint traces near Harrisburg and north—until we reached about five miles south of Potters Mills. As we descended the Seven Mountains, winter made a dramatic entrance: 8 to 10 inches of heavy, wet snow blanketed the ground. Trees, limbs, and power lines all bowed under the weight. We were fortunate to return to a home with power. Many others weren't so lucky. For several days, we shared our house with a young family and their two little boys while they waited for service to be restored.

Fast forward to April 15th of this year. Severe storms rolled through our area, causing brief power outages. Thankfully, most homes had power back within 24 hours. Then, on April 29th, I was working in my home office during a rainy, breezy afternoon when my cell phone suddenly blared: Severe Thunderstorm Now. I'd never heard a warning phrased quite like that. I quickly checked the radar—just two clicks away on my desktop—but saw nothing significant in our area. Fortunately, the storm passed with little impact here. However, other parts of Centre County suffered major damage to electrical infrastructure, and some residents were without power for five to seven days.

In nearly 50 years of selling real estate, I've helped many people relocate to central Pennsylvania from the West, Midwest, and South. None of them ever said they came here because it felt safer. But many lifelong Pennsylvanians believe just that—that we're protected from hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires, and floods.

While we may not experience disasters as often as other regions, it only takes one to change everything. When that time comes, please remember to check in on your neighbors. You can find tips for disaster preparedness in Pennsylvania at www.Ready.PA.gov.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN CENTRE COUNTY

Wild Wilderness

May 17 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wild Wellness is a new event at The Arboretum that explores the connection between nature and well-being.

Boalsburg Farmers Market

May 20 @ 2:00 - 6:00 pm

Just-picked veggies (including certified organic products), fruits, preserves, shrubs, jellies, jams and fruit butters. Perfect pepper products. Artisanal breads and tempting baked treats, delectable desserts!

Drop In Guided Tours: Images of Power

May 22 @ 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Drop in and discover the Palmer's world-class collections and exhibitions with a friendly and knowledgeable museum guide.

Visit https://www.statecollege.com/events/ for more events information.

CENTRE COUNTY MARKET UPDATE

Effective date: May 1, 2025





REAL ESTATE NEWS



SELLERS PROPERTY DISCLOSURE: FROM THE BUYER'S SIDE

Buyers and their agents should look beyond the Seller's Property Disclosure Statement, understanding that it only covers known material defects and is not a warranty of the home's condition. Pennsylvania Realtors® explain why buyers must ask follow-up questions, conduct inspections, and prioritize their unique needs to make fully informed decisions.

To read full article click here.



SCOPING OUT THE HOME/PROPERTY INSPECTION

Buyers who elect the home/property inspection contingency in Pennsylvania's Standard Agreement for the Sale of Real Estate can inspect a wide range of structural and environmental elements—and aren't limited to just one inspector or visit. Pennsylvania Realtors® break down what's allowed, who qualifies as a professional inspector, and why Uncle Gary probably shouldn't be your go-to.

To read full article click here.



ENERGY UPGRADE COSTS UNDERESTIMATED

Many homeowners see meaningful savings from energy-efficient upgrades, but a new survey shows that upfront costs are often underestimated—with 1 in 5 facing surprise expenses over \$2,000. While most don't regret their upgrades, nearly 40% said they might have acted sooner if they'd known about available rebates and financing options.

To read full article click here.



FARM and RURAL LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES



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